

# **Dudley Water Department**

## **2015 Consumer Awareness Report**

Public Water Supply ID # 2080000

We are pleased to present to you, our customer the Dudley Water Department's 2015 Consumer Awareness Report. The report provides our 2015 testing results, reminders about water conservation and source protection, and an overview of our efforts in 2015 to deliver high-quality drinking water to more than 8,000 people in the town. The Dudley Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners meets the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Dudley Municipal Complex, 71 West Main Street, Room 315. The Water Department meetings are open to the public and all are invited to attend. If you have an item to be brought before the Board, please call 508-949-8007 the Thursday before the meeting to be placed on the agenda.

### **Your Drinking Water Sources**

The Town of Dudley's water system includes three ground water supplies and pumping stations, two water storage tanks and 35 miles of water main. Presently three stations have backup generators to supply water to customers in the event of power loss. The three groundwater supplies consist of two gravel packed wells and one tubular well field.

Station 1: West Main Street - tubular well field (backup source)

Station 3: Schofield Avenue - gravel packed well

Station 6: New Boston Road - gravel packed well

The two storage facilities hold a combined 1.5 million gallons of water for daily use, emergencies and fire protection. During 2015, the Water Department supplied approximately 180,044,000 gallons of water, with a daily average of approximately 493,270 gallons. For all of 2015, the Water Department provided disinfection to the water by adding sodium hypochlorite, a common drinking water treatment practice, at all three of the sources following the approval by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP).

### **Contaminants and Health Risks**

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and MassDEP prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contamination. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

### **Contaminants in Source Water**

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- **Microbial Contaminants** - such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic Contaminants** such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- **Pesticides and Herbicides** - which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- **Organic Chemical Contaminants** - including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive Contaminants** - which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining.

**Other Important Health Information**

**Lead:** If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Dudley Water Department is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

**Sodium:** Sodium-sensitive individuals, such as those experiencing hypertension, kidney failure, or congestive heart failure, who drink water containing sodium, should be aware of levels where exposures are being carefully controlled.

**Immune-compromised Persons:** Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice from their health care providers about drinking water. EPA/Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infections by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

**Water Quality Monitoring**

The Federal and State governments require regular testing of all public water supplies. Monitoring for bacteria is done several times a month. Tests for other contaminants are conducted less frequently, according to the sample schedule provided by MassDEP. The Town of Dudley Water Department complies with all these mandates to ensure the highest quality of drinking water possible.

**Important Definitions** – understanding this report

- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers a treatment or other requirement which a water system must follow.
- **90th Percentile:** The level that determines lead and copper compliance; 9 out of 10 homes were at or below this level.
- **Units of Measurement:**
  - ♣ ppm - parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
  - ♣ ppb - parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)
  - ♣ ND - Not detected, the contaminant value measured was not above the detection level of the test method
  - ♣ pCi/l – Picocuries per liter, a measurement of radioactivity
- **Unregulated Contaminants:** Contaminants for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether further regulation is warranted.
- **Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL):** These standards are developed to protect the aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.
- **Massachusetts Office of Research and Standards Guideline (ORSG):** This is the concentration of a chemical in drinking water, at or below which, adverse non-cancer health effects are unlikely to occur after chronic (lifetime) exposure. If exceeded, it serves as an indicator of the potential need for further action.

**Compliance in 2015**

For all 12 months in 2015, the Dudley Water Department conducted its monthly sampling for bacteria within the town. For each month all of the 11 routine samples came back negative for total coliform.

## 2015 CCR Water Quality Data Tables

The Water Department also tests for 56 Volatile Organic Compounds every year at each of its three sources of supply. The results of all of those analyses are reported as ND or Not Detectable. That means that no traces of the contaminants were found above the minimum laboratory detection limit.

The following water quality test results were from water quality sampling performed during 2015 or during the most recent monitoring period for each contaminant group, as required by MassDEP. Only the detected contaminants are shown below.

Lead and Copper	Dates Collected	90 <sup>TH</sup> Percentile	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	Exceeds AL (Y/N)	# of Sites Sampled	# of Sites above AL	Possible Source of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	09/15/2014	2	15	0	N	20	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Copper (ppm)	09/15/2014	0.37	1.3	0	N	20	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

Bacteria	Highest # of Positive Samples in a Month	MCL	MCLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source
Total Coliform	0	1	0	N	Naturally present in the environment

Regulated Contaminants	Date Collected	Highest Detected	Range Detected	MCL	MCLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Nitrate (ppm)	04/09/2015	1.80	0.66 – 1.80	10	10	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; erosion of natural deposits

Unregulated and Secondary Contaminants	Date Collected	Highest Level Detected	Average Detected	SMCL	ORSG	Possible Source
Manganese	04/09/2015	0.035	0.018	0.05	0.3	Erosion of natural deposits
Sulfate (ppm)	04/09/2015	9.8	8.4	250	--	Natural sources
Sodium (ppm)	04/09/2015	58	35.3	--	20	Natural sources; runoff from road salt

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Date Collected	Highest Level Detected	Range Detected	MCL or MRDL	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM's) (ppb)	08/13/2015	3.9	0 - 3.9	80	N	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAAS) (ppb)	08/13/2015	2.1	0 – 2.1	60	N	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (ppm)	Monthly in 2015	0.59	0.16 - 0.59	4	N	Water Additive used to control microbes

Most of the data presented in the above tables are from testing performed between January 1 - December 31, 2015. We monitor for some contaminants less than once per year, because the concentrations for those contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. As a result, some of our data though representative is more than a year old. For those contaminants, the date of the last sample is shown in the table.

**Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) Program**

We are all concerned about the quality of the water we drink. Drinking water wells may be threatened by many potential contaminant sources, including storm runoff, road salting, and improper disposal of hazardous materials. Dudley citizens and our local officials can work together to better protect our drinking water sources. The MassDEP completed the Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) report for the Dudley Water Department. The complete report is available at the Water Department or online at [www.mass.gov/dep/water/drinking/2080000.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/drinking/2080000.pdf). The SWAP report contains important information on land uses and potential threats within the protected areas of our wells. Dudley's susceptibility ranking was determined by MassDEP to be *High*, which means we need to be extra vigilant in monitoring or restricting activities that might contaminate our water supply.

Dudley was advised to 1) inspect the Zone I(s) regularly and, when feasible, remove any non-water supply activities; 2) educate residents on ways they can help protect drinking water; 3) work with emergency response teams to ensure they are aware of the stormwater drainage in our Zone II(s) and to cooperate on responding to spills or accidents; 4) partner with local businesses to ensure the proper storage, handling, and disposal of hazardous materials; 5) monitor progress on any ongoing remedial action for known oil or contamination sites in the Zone II; and 6) implement a wellhead protection plan.

The Dudley Water Department has been commended by MassDEP for taking an active role in promoting source protection measures in our Water Supply Protection areas. Citizens can also help protect our water supply by proper maintenance of septic systems. You can help by pumping out your septic system every two years and do not use septic system cleaners. Never dump hazardous substances down septic or storm drains. For additional information or to offer suggestions or ideas to generate public awareness, please call the Water Department office at 508-949-8007, the shop at 508-949-8038, or stop by the office at the Town Hall, 71 West Main St., Room 305.

**Water Conservation**

The Water Department encourages efficient use of water to ensure an adequate supply for the future. Good practices including using water efficient fixtures and appliances (toilets, showerheads, washing machines & dishwashers), repairing leaky faucets and toilets, and watering lawns early in the morning or late in the evening when evaporation rates are the lowest and only when needed. Reducing water use will also serve to reduce your water and sewer bills. Another excellent way to save water is through the practice of using "low water use plants" and limiting lawn size.

In 2002, we made great strides in our water conservation efforts by adopting a Water Use Restriction By-Law at the Spring Annual Town Meeting. The Board of Water Commissioners also amended the new service regulations, which prohibit the use of automatic lawn irrigation systems. If you would like more information on water conservation, please call or visit the Water Department Office located at the Town Hall.

**Water Restrictions**

Water Restrictions were set for the Town from May through September 2015 per MassDEP Water Management Regulations. If you need more information on this topic, please visit the town's website at [www.dudleyma.gov](http://www.dudleyma.gov).

**Residential Cross Connection Protection**

A cross connection is a connection between a drinking water pipe and a polluted source. The pollution can come from your own home. For instance, if you want to spray fertilizer on your lawn, you might hook up your hose to the sprayer that contains the fertilizer. If the water pressure drops (say because of fire hydrant use in the town) while the hose is connected to the fertilizer, the fertilizer may be sucked back into the drinking water pipes through the hose. Using an attachment on your hose called a backflow-prevention device can prevent this problem.

The Water Department recommends the installation of backflow-prevention devices, such as low-cost hose bib vacuum breakers, for all inside and outside hose connections. You can purchase them at a hardware store or plumbing supply store. This is a great way for you to help protect the water in your home as well as the drinking water system in our town. For additional information on cross connections and on the status of Dudley's cross connection program, please call us.

**Contact Us**

If you have any questions about this report or if you'd like additional copies, please contact Administrative Assistant, Kristin Doyle by calling 508-949-8007 or by email [watersewer@dudleyma.gov](mailto:watersewer@dudleyma.gov), or Water Superintendent, John Meehan at the shop at 508-949-8038. After hours: If there is an emergency please contact the Dudley Police Department at 508-943-4411.